

DWD Workforce Programs Conference – March 12, 2014

“Business is the Customer”

Employer Panel – Mike Ruminski

Transportation Workforce Development in WI

- Over 160,000 Wisconsinites, 1 in 15 workers, are tied to trucking
- Fleets range from single operators to some of the largest in the U.S.
- Average annual earnings are \$42,000 per year for CDL drivers
- “Home time” and work options have improved, wages not as much yet

Transportation Economic Impact in WI

- Truck transportation moves 90% of materials and goods in the state
- 80% of WI communities rely on trucks/drivers for transportation needs
- Safe, vibrant and productive trucking industry vital to WI economy
- Trucking jobs cannot be “offshored” but can and are being “imported”

Industry Challenges – Driver Capacity

- Inadequate supply of interested, qualified , trained and certified drivers
- Shortage exists today and being exasperated by “baby boomer” exits
- With the average of hire being 42, Trucking’s needs are more acute
- More regulatory and liability exposure have increased standards

Industry Challenges – Support and Competition

- “Restrained” training capacity in the WI Technical College system
- Less attention and training funding directed toward trucking – until now
- Competition from other states who are “exporting” CDL drivers to WI
- Demand for CDL drivers is driving up cost of filling needs

WI DWD and Other Agency Solutions

- WI Motor Carriers Association led consortium began 3 years ago
- Partnered with DWD, WEDC, Tech Colleges, Veterans' Services and DOT
- Transportation page on JCW resulting increased awareness and need
- Military driving experience transferrable to CDL classification
- Public/private creation of a WI CDL Training Program

DWD Personal Experiences – Mike Ruminski

- As a Bay Workforce Development Board member
 - Technology – JCW upgrade and Skills Explorer
 - Development of a statewide workforce development system
 - Local Job Center Staffing (Job Services leadership and Voc. Rehab.)
- As an Employer and Business Leader
 - Job postings and core services referrals
 - Job readiness assessments and services (NCRC)
 - Public/Private Collaboration and Partnerships